



Rep. Paul Condino, Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
N0799 House Office Building  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Condino:

I represent the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce, a private business association of more than 2,500 member firms that employ nearly 80,000 people within the southwest Michigan region. Specifically, the Chamber would like to convey its grave concerns about proposed legislation which we feel could severely impact our ability to grow jobs in the life sciences industry in southwest Michigan. This legislation (HB 4044; Rep. Simpson and SB 43; Sen. Gleason) focuses on repealing one of Michigan's key competitive advantages – the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Defense law. The law, as it currently stands, has been a model that a number of other states have looked at duplicating to more effectively compete with us for our life science jobs.

We are also concerned about HB 4045; Rep. McDowell's proposed legislation to make the repeal retroactive and HB 4046: Rep. Valentine's bill which would create an additional cause of action against drug manufacturers under the Michigan Consumer Protection Act.

At a time that Michigan is dead last in the nation for job creation it seems very unwise to craft legislation that would in effect discourage growth in what the state has identified as a key industry for our future success.

It is a foreseeable consequence that when this legislation passes there would be an immediate rush to the courthouse by those that are pushing for its passage. This would in effect not only drive keep new life science job creators out of Michigan but also drive existing ones to other states.

The southwest Michigan region is fortunate to have dozens of life science companies sited here. These companies employ several thousand people and continue to grow at a brisk pace. This region has made a significant commitment to grow our life science industry and has partnered with the state through several funding initiatives to do just that. This past fall through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs fund the area's life science firms received nearly \$7.5 million in state grants. It would be a truly ironic message to send to our existing and newly-forming life science industry that yes we would like to help fund your growth and development, but also want to expand your liability to be sued.

In closing, please do not approve this legislation and cause irreparable harm to Michigan's future job growth. Also please take into account the very negative impact this decision would have on the economy and people of southwest Michigan.

Sincerely,

Steward Sandstrom, CCE  
President and CEO